Amendment to the Claims

1.   (Currently Amended)   A router for providing transportation of messages between a main processor and packet flow processors, the messages transported via a transport media, the router comprising:

a Dynamic Routing and Control (DRC) driver including a plurality of Application Program Interfaces (API) for interfacing to the main processor;

a transport interface for interfacing between said DRC driver APIs and the transport media;

a Packet Flow Processor (PFP) driver (PFP driver) including a plurality of Application Program Interfaces (API) for interfacing to the packet flow processors;

a transport interface for interfacing between said PFP driver APIs and the transport media; and

said DRC driver and said PFP driver transporting messages between the main processor and the packet flow processors.

2.   (Previously Amended)   The router of Claim 1 wherein said messages transported between the main processor and the packet flow processors include internet protocol, routing table distribution and control and maintenance messages.

3.   (Previously Amended)   The router of Claim 1 wherein said PFP driver transports traffic messages between ingress and egress ports of one or more of the packet flow processors via the transport media.

4.   (Previously Amended)   The router of Claim 3 wherein said traffic includes internet protocol and multi-protocol labels(MPLS) traffic.

5.   (Previously Amended)   The router of Claim 1 wherein said DRC driver translates message format and routing information between a first protocol used by the main processor and a second protocol used by the transport media.

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6. (Currently Amended) The router of Claim 1 wherein said DRC driver includes a routing table including addresses of the <u>packet flow processors</u> PFPs.

7. (New) A system for control and distribution of routing messages that supports communications over a system transport media among multiple components in a router, comprising:

a Packet Flow Processor (PFP) driver including a plurality of PFP Application Program Interfaces (API) for interfacing to packet flow processors;

a framework transport interface for interfacing between said PFP driver APIs and a system transport media, wherein the framework transport interface can be configured to support system transport media having a number of different transport protocols and media;

a Dynamic Routing and Control (DRC) driver including a plurality of DRC Application Program Interfaces (API) for interfacing to a routing processor; and

a transport interface for interfacing between said DRC driver APIs and the system transport media.

8. (New) The system of claim 7, wherein one of the plurality of DRC APIs is a routing table API that allows the DRC driver to communicate routing table information to the PFP API in the PFP driver to update routing tables in the packet flow processors.

9. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein one of the plurality of DRC APIs is an internet protocol API that allows the DRC driver to communicate IP messages through the PFP API in the PFP driver to and from packet flow processors that service IP network traffic.

10. (New) The system of claim 9, wherein one of the plurality of DRC APIs is a control and network management API that allows the DRC driver to communicate configuration

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and performance monitoring messages through the PFP API in the PFP driver to and from packet

flow processors.

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